

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Annapolis, December 28th, 1836. }

*Gentlemen of the Senate,
and of the House of Delegates:*

In discharging, on the present occasion, the customary duty of submitting to you, at the commencement of your session, such matters of public concern as may seem to demand the consideration of the General Assembly, we cannot refrain, in the outset of this communication, from congratulating you, and the people of the State at large, upon the restoration of peace and quiet within our borders; upon the harmony which prevails among our citizens; and upon the praiseworthy desire, manifested in every quarter, of uniting zealously and in the best spirit, for the advancement of the true glory and welfare of the State.

There is, in our opinion, no truth more obvious, or scarcely more important to be known and recognized in every well regulated Government, than that the undue prevalence and excitement of the spirit of party are calculated to disturb the peace of society, and create serious and permanent evils in the body politic. This salutary lesson is exemplified in the history of all Governments, but it is more particularly striking in those whose foundations are based upon Republican principles. If it were necessary to travel beyond the limits of our own observation and experience to establish the truth of these remarks, we might show, that in the anarchy and consequent destruction of most, if not all the free Governments of both ancient and modern times, an inflamed party spirit has been a most prominent and efficient agent. But it is not necessary to do so. In our own times—here—in our own State, and before our own eyes—have we witnessed the extreme to which the undue indulgence of the spirit of party leads. But, happily, in our case, the patriotism of the community was aroused to the dangers with which we were threatened, and the issue of the recent occurrences furnishes a practical illustration of the stability of free institutions, when supported by a patriotic and intelligent people.